

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
(MBHB 00-812-F; RPI Ref No. 400/043)

In re the Application of:

Stinchcomb et al.

Serial No: TBA

Filed:

For: Ribozyme Treatment of Diseases or
Conditions Related to Levels of NF- κ B

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) **Group Art Unit:** TBA

)
) **Examiner:** TBA.

Box Patent Application
Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

Please enter the following preliminary amendment before substantive examination
of the above-mentioned application.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please delete claims 2- 18 and add the following new claims.

19. A hammerhead ribozyme having the ability to cleave NF- κ B RNA.
20. The ribozyme of claim 19, wherein said NF- κ B RNA encodes Rel A protein.
21. The ribozyme of claim 19, wherein the binding arms of the ribozyme comprise between 12 and 100 nucleotides complementary to said NF- κ B RNA.
22. The ribozyme of claim 19, wherein the binding arms of the ribozyme comprise between 14 and 24 nucleotides complementary to said NF- κ B RNA.
23. The ribozyme of claim 19, wherein said ribozyme is chemically modified.

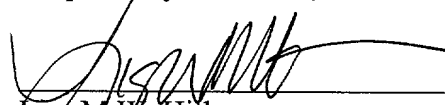
24. The ribozyme of claim 23, wherein said chemical modification prevents ribonuclease degradation *in vivo*.
25. The ribozyme of claim 23, wherein said chemical modification comprises one or more nucleic acid sugar modification.
26. A mammalian cell comprising the ribozyme of claim 19.
27. The mammalian cell of claim 26, where said mammalian cell is a human cell.
28. The ribozyme of claim 25, wherein said sugar modification is 2'-O-methyl.

Remarks

These new claims do not add new matter and Applicants respectfully request their entry.

Date: 1/23/02

Respectfully submitted,

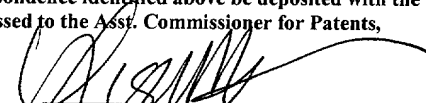

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING (37 C.F.R. 1.10)

I hereby certify that, under 37 CFR § 1.10, I directed that the correspondence identified above be deposited with the United States Postal Service as "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee," addressed to the Asst. Commissioner for Patents, Box Patent Application, Washington, DC 20231, on the date indicated below.

Date: January 23, 2002

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